



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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GAIL FARBER, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

July 05, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

36 July 5, 2011

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

WILSHIRE BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT COUNTY UNINCORPORATED VETERANS ADMINISTRATION COMMUNITY (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

This action is to consider the Revised Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and the Environmental Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the proposed Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project and to authorize the Department of Public Works to carry out the portion of the project within the County of Los Angeles unincorporated Veterans Administration community.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Acting as a responsible agency for the proposed Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project, consider the Revised Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Assessment prepared and certified by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority as lead agency for the project; certify that your Board has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the proposed project as shown in the Revised Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment; adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and the Environmental Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations, finding that the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation; find that there are no further feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures within your Board's power that would substantially lessen or avoid any significant effect the project would have on the environment; and determine that the significant adverse effects of the project have either been reduced to an acceptable level or are outweighed by

the specific consideration of the project as outlined in the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations, which findings and statement are adopted and incorporated herein by reference.

2. Approve the project and authorize the Department of Public Works to carry out the portion of the project on Wilshire Boulevard between Veterans Avenue and Federal Avenue within the County of Los Angeles unincorporated Veterans Administration community including right-of-way acquisition and construction.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to adopt the required Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and the Environmental Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations and authorize the Department of Public Works (Public Works) to carry out the portion of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (LACMTA) project within the County of Los Angeles (County) unincorporated Veterans Administration community.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3). By supporting the collaborative efforts of LACMTA, the City of Los Angeles, and the County in improving transit services, the traveling public will benefit.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$31,500,000, which will be financed with \$23,300,000 in Federal Transit Administration Very Small Starts Section 5309 grant funds; \$4,900,000 in LACMTA Proposition C 25 percent grant funds; and \$3,300,000 in City of Los Angeles local funds. At this time, it is anticipated that the overall project will be administered by the City of Los Angeles and there will be no impact on County operating funds.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project consists of installing curbside peak-period bus lanes in the City of Los Angeles and County. Proposed improvements along Wilshire Boulevard include restriping of traffic lanes; conversion of existing curb lanes in each direction to bus lanes during peak periods; upgrading the existing transit signal priority system; reconstructing/resurfacing the roadway pavement in curb lanes; some street widening; and installation of traffic/transit signage and pavement markings.

The LACMTA Board adopted Alternative A-1 of the Revised Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) on May 26, 2011. Alternative A-1 was also approved by the Los Angeles City Council on June 14, 2011. The segment of the project within unincorporated County jurisdiction under Alternative A-1 is the same as under Alternative A. Accordingly, approval of the Revised Final EIR/EA by your Board will constitute approval of Alternative A-1 and Alternative A with respect to the work within the unincorporated County area.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

In approving the portion of the project within unincorporated County area, the County, through Public Works, is acting as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). LACMTA, as lead agency, prepared a Draft EIR, consulted with the County, and certified a Revised Final EIR/EA for this project on May 26, 2011. The environmental document is a dual document with a Final EIR for compliance with CEQA and an EA for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The County's approval of the portion of the roadway improvements within County jurisdiction will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Upon your Board's approval of the project, Public Works will file a Notice of Determination with the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk in accordance with Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code and pay the required processing fee with the County Clerk in the amount of \$75.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This project will result in improved public transit services in the Wilshire corridor for the benefit of the traveling public.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Department of Public Works, Programs Development Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Farber".

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:JTW:pr

Enclosure

c: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
County Counsel
Executive Office